

# MLA Format

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# What's Plagiarism?

*The deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise*

# MLA Formatting and Style Guide

## General Guidelines

- Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the text, and use Times New Roman 12.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks.
- Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides. Indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch from the left margin.

- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
- Use italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis.

# Formatting the First Page of Your Paper

- Do not make a title page for your paper unless specifically requested.
- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
- Double space again and center the title. Don't underline your title or put it in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case, not in all capital letters
- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.

- Use quotation marks or italics when referring to other works in your title, just as you would in your text, e.g.,

- Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* as Morality Play

- Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"

- Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.

↑  
1"  
↓

↑  
1½"  
↓

Josephson 1

Laura N. Josephson

Professor Bennett

Humanities 2710

8 May 2008

Indent 1½"

Ellington's Adventures in Music and Geography

In studying the influence of Latin American, African, and Asian music on modern American composers, music historians tend to discuss such figures as Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Henry Cowell, Alan Hovhaness, and John Cage

Double-space

← 1" →

# How to Use Citations (MLA)

## In-text Citation:

- Author's last name and page number written within quotation marks. The period goes after the citation.
- The quotation marks go after the last word quoted.
- If there's no author, use a shortened title of the work. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work, or italicize it if it's a longer work.
- If you refer to the author in your text, include only the page number in the reference.



Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).

An anonymous Wordsworth critic once argued that his poems were too emotional ("Wordsworth Is a Loser" 100).

- If the quotation is more than four lines: set it off from text, 10 spaces from margin and do not include quotation marks. Before the quotation you may include a comma (,) or a colon (:)

Cyberpunk explores how capitalism has invaded our lives with mass-produced products. McCaffery explains that capitalism depends on technological advancements in order to compete in the multinational market. This rat race for technological expansion and power developed a new market of “technological mass-produced products” and a whole media industry to support it. Part of the strategy is to make the consumers believe they need those products:

Created for consumers by other products (TVs and film projectors, VCRs, CDs, computers, instacams, cameras, Xerox and fax machines), these commodities can be reproduced (and then consumed) more easily than previous, unwieldy consumer products (cars, shoes, tanks); increasingly, they have thoroughly interpenetrated our daily lives with their “virtual realities,” and begun to inhabit and colonize our imaginations and desires, even our unconscious... (5)

The role of the media is to help these “virtual realities” enter our lives as inherent parts of them. The technological advances and the intromission into our unconscious provoke several moral and psychological reactions in our perception of *reality*. McCaffery explains how the old discussion

- For indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted:

Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).

- For sources without a page number, mention the name of the author or web page without any parenthetical reference:

The Purdue OWL is accessed by millions of users every year. Specifically, the OWL's MLA Formatting and Style Guide is one of the most popular resources.

- If you add a word or words in a quotation, you should put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not part of the original text:

Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states: "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

- If you omit a word or words from a quotation, you should indicate the deleted word or words by using ellipsis marks, which are three periods (. . .) preceded and followed by a space:

In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale . . . and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).

# Works Cited

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (do not underline the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations five spaces so that you create a hanging indent.
- List page numbers of sources efficiently.

Begin at  
left margin

Double-space between  
title and first entry

Page number

Works Cited

- 1" ← Edwards, Brent Hayes. "The Literary Ellington." *Representations* 77 (2002): 1-29. ← 1"
- JSTOR. Web. 7 Dec. 2007.
- Indent 1/2" Gaines, Kevin. "Duke Ellington, *Black, Brown, and Beige*, and the Cultural Politics of Race." Radano and Bohlman 585-602.

Double-space within  
and between entries

## Works Cited

Russell, Tony, Allen Brizee, and Elizabeth Angeli. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*. Purdue U Writing Lab, 4 Apr. 2010. Web. 20 July 2010.

Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York:Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.